

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

SAM-01 SCCT-01 OPR-02 SY-05 SAB-01 /097 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:EOJONES:CEK
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
EUR/P - MR. JERABEK
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY
SSM-MR. MC ANDREW
NEA/ARP - MR. DICKMAN
AF/P - MR. POPE
NEA - MS. GRIFFIN

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O 270003Z JUL 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMCONSUL KARACHI
CINCEUR

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JULY 26

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR JULY 26,
1976:

Q: WHAT IS THE SECRETARY'S CURRENT TRAVEL PLAN?

A: HE IS GOING UP TO BOSTON ON MONDAY. HE IS GOING TO
ADDRESS THE URBAN LEAGUE MONDAY NIGHT, AS I INDICATED LAST
WEEK.

Q: MONDAY NIGHT?

A: YES.

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Q: NEXT MONDAY.

A: A WEEK FROM TODAY. I AM NOT ABLE TO GIVE YOU TODAY THE
EXACT DATE OR TIME OF OUR DEPARTURE NEXT WEEK. I HOPE TO
HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS ON THE TRIP. BUT
HE IS STILL PLANNING TO GO TO IRAN, AND I EXPECT HE WILL BE
LEAVING MID-WEEK. BUT I DO NOT HAVE THE OTHER COUNTRIES ON

THE ITINERARY.

Q: HERE HE IS GOING ON A TRIP NEXT WEEK, BOB, AND WE STILL
DON'T HAVE EVEN THE BARE ESSENTIALS OF WHERE HE IS GOING,

WHAT THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIP IS.

A: MURREY, WE HAVE GIVEN THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING IN IRAN.

Q: TO IRAN, YES. THAT IS ONE COUNTRY.

A: THAT IS THE PURPOSE - ON BACKGROUND, HE IS ALSO GIVING THOUGHT TO VISITING AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN. BUT I DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING FIRM ON THAT. I HOPE TO HAVE A FIRM ITINERARY WITHIN THE NEXT DAY OR SO. END BACKGROUND.

Q: BOB, HAS THE DEPARTMENT ISSUED A WARNING ON THE POSSIBILITY OF OIL TANKERS BEING HIJACKED IN THE PERSIAN GULF AREA?

A: I WOULD HAVE TO CHECK INTO THAT, LARS.

Q: IT HAS BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN DIRECT CONTACTS WITH THE PLO BY THE UNITED STATES. HAVE THOSE CONTACTS BEEN LIMITED TO THE SUBJECT OF EVACUATION?

A: YES.

Q: AND HAVE THE CONTACTS ALL TAKEN PLACE IN BEIRUT?

A: YES.

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Q: YES TO BOTH QUESTIONS?

A: YES.

Q: ON THAT SUBJECT, THERE'S A REPORT THAT THE REASON THAT THE UNITED STATES CHOSE SEA EVACUATION RATHER THAN LAND CONVOY WAS THAT THE PALESTINIANS ADVISED THE U.S. EMBASSY THAT THEY COULD NOT GUARANTEE THE SAFETY OF A LAND CONVOY; THEY COULD GIVE MORE ASSURANCES ON A SEA CONVOY. IS THAT CORRECT?

A: I WOULD NOT NECESSARILY RESTRICT IT TO THE PALESTINIANS BUT VARIOUS PARTIES THAT WE WERE IN TOUCH WITH INFORMED US THEY COULD NOT GUARANTEE THE ENTIRE LAND ROUTE, AND THAT IS WHY WE OPTED FOR THE SEA ROUTE.

Q: INCLUDING THE PALESTINIANS?

A: YES.

Q: BUT TO THE EXTENT THAT WE HAVE SPECIAL INTEREST IN THE

PALESTINIAN SITUATION, DID THEY TELL US THAT THEY CAN
GUARANTEE THE PORTION OF THE ROUTE THAT THEY WERE IN CON-
TROL OF?

A: NO, I DO NOT BELIEVE THEY DID.

Q: THAT WAS ONE OF THE CONSIDERATIONS FOR GOING SEA?

A: RIGHT.

Q: BUT IS JIM RIGHT THAT THEY DID SAY SO FAR AS THEY HAD
ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE SEA ROUTE THEY COULD GUARANTEE
THEIR SECURITY?

A: I DO NOT KNOW THAT SPECIFICALLY, BUT I DO KNOW THAT
THE PARTIES WE ARE IN CONTACT WITH IN CONNECTION WITH THE
EVACUATION TOMORROW BY SEA HAVE GIVEN US THE ASSURANCES.
AND I WOULD ASSUME THAT WOULD INCLUDE PALESTINIANS BECAUSE
THEY ARE LARGELY IN CONTROL OF THE AREA OF WEST BEIRUT.

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Q: BOB, NOW THAT THE QUESTION OF DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE
VARIOUS PALESTINIAN GROUPS IN CONNECTION WITH THIS EVACUA-
TION IS NO LONGER A TABOO SUBJECT, CAN YOU GIVE US SOME
MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WHICH GROUPS OUR REPRESENTATIVES
HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH? THEY AREN'T EXACTLY COHESIVE
AT THE MOMENT, THE PLO.

A: I DO NOT KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION, BUT LET ME
LOOK INTO IT.

Q: COULD YOU LOOK INTO IT?

A: I WILL.

Q: AT THIS POINT PARTICULARLY IT SEEMS -

Q: BOB, AGAIN IN THAT AREA, "CONTACT" IS KIND OF A VAGUE
WORD. WOULDN'T IT BE JUST AS FAIR TO SAY THAT WE HAVE
NEGOTIATED WITH THE PLO SO FAR AS THIS ISSUE OF SAFE
PASSAGE OF AMERICANS IN CONCERNED? I MEAN "CONTACT", YOU
HAVE CONTACT WITH THE PRESS EVERY DAY, BUT I MEAN SO FAR
AS DEALING WITH THEM. ARE WE DEALING WITH THE PLO, ARE
WE NEGOTIATING WITH THEM? ARE WE TRYING TO ARRANGE THINGS
WITH THEM?

A: THE WORD NEGOTIATION HAS A SPECIAL MEANING IN DIPLO-
MATIC PARLANCE.

Q: HOW ABOUT DEALING WITH OR TRYING TO REACH TERMS WITH?

A: WHEN WE MADE THE DECISION THAT WE WANTED TO HAVE THESE LAND CONVOYS, WE WERE IN TOUCH WITH THEM- SOUGHT THEIR HELP BECAUSE THEY OBVIOUSLY WOULD PROVIDE THE ESCORT THROUGH THEIR OWN TERRITORY. SO, YES, I THINK OBVIOUSLY WE ARE DEALING WITH THEM.

Q: DO YOU AGREE IN GENERAL TERMS WITH MOST ANALYSES, WHICH HAVE BEEN BECAUSE OF THE SITUATION IN LEBANON THE PLO'S STATUS HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT IN DECLINE OVER THE LAST MONTH OR SO?

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A: I REALLY DO NOT THINK I OUGHT TO CHARACTERIZE THE VARIOUS RELATIVE POSITIONS OR STRENGTHS OF THE PARTIES TO THE LEBANESE CIVIL WAR.

Q: LET'S JUST TALK ABOUT US AND THE PLO. DOES OUR CONTACT WITH THE PLO, EVEN ON THIS LIMITED QUESTION, IN THE VIEW OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT SERVE TO ENHANCE THE PRESTIGE OF THE PLO?

A: I JUST COULD NOT ANSWER THAT. IT HAS BEEN A TECHNICAL CONTACT CONCERNED WITH THE PROBLEM OF GUARANTEEING THE SAFE DEPARTURE OF OUR AMERICAN CITIZENS, NO MORE NO LESS.

Q: MA'ARIV - I HOPE I'M NOT MISQUOTING - BUT MA'ARIV, THE ISRAELI NEWSPAPER, THOUGHT THAT THIS SORT OF SOFTENS THINGS UP AND ESTABLISHES A BEGINNING OF A RELATIONSHIP. WHAT DO YOU SAY TO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

A: I JUST THINK THAT THAT IS SPECULATION - OUR RELATIONSHIP IS TO THE EXTENT THAT I HAVE DESCRIBED IT.

Q: HAVE THE ISRAELIS BEEN ADVISED FORMALLY OF OUR NEED IN THIS CASE TO CONTACT THE PLO?

A: YES.

Q: ARE THEY GOING ALONG WITH IT; HAVE THEY CONTESTED IT?

A: I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY REACTION.

Q: CAN YOU GIVE US ANY DETAILS OF YOUR CONTACTS WITH THE PALESTINIANS IN BEIRUT?

A: THE U.S. EMBASSY SECURITY OFFICER IN BEIRUT IS IN CONTACT WITH THOSE PEOPLE ON THE PLO SIDE DESIGNATED TO WORK WITH US ON ARRANGING SECURITY ASPECTS OF THE EVACUATION. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 15 SEP 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PFOR, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE185025
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/P:EOJONES:CEK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D760289-0561, D760287-0640
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197607109/baaaepmx.tel
Line Count: 273
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <26 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

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Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JULY 26
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, US
To: BEIRUT
CAIRO
JIDDA
TEL AVIV
DAMASCUS
KUWAIT

DHAHRAN
JERUSALEM
KHARTOUM
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Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006